Robert Morris Named Iowa Bystander Editor

Entrepreneur and author Robert V. Morris, 49, will edit the newspaper his legendary grandfather, James B. Morris, Sr., published from 1922-1971. As of this week’s issue, Morris will edit and write a weekly current events editorial for the Iowa Bystander entitled: “What’s Going On?”

Morris is an award winning businessman, television documentary producer and journalist who has published three books and numerous magazines and newspapers including the Bystander from 1978-1981 and the Iowa State Bystander 100th Anniversary Magazine in 1994. His 1994 “Tradition And Valor” documentary with Iowa Public Television and subsequent 1999 book exposed black Iowa history to the general public for the first time. Morris’ civic contributions include founding the Fort Des Moines Memorial Park in 1999, the WWII Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Memorial (P-51D) at the Iowa Air National Guard 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines International Airport in 2002 and the ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program of Iowa operating in the Des Moines Public Schools in 2005.

Morris authored numerous guest editorials for the Des Moines Register between 1990-2000 and was named one of the “50 Most Influential Iowans of the 21st Century” by that publication in 2000 while authoring “The 10 Most Influential African-Americans of the 20th Century” feature for the Register that same year. A graduate of the University of Iowa and former journalism instructor at Iowa State University, Robert returns to edit the Bystander at a time of tremendous growth for the publication founded in 1894.
Accountability: How do we get it? How do we manage it?

It’s time for accountability. When the Black Ministerial Alliance holds a press conference in support of the police department’s N.E.S.T. project in the central city of Des Moines, was it necessary? We have to ask how much research was conducted that gave data to support something like this. The research should have given evidence for the need and answer how accountability would be handled.

Under Chief McCarthy arrests were down, crime rates declined but most important the relationship between the police and the community was very amicable. Is Chief Bradshaw going to be accountable to our community — only time will tell.

Accountability in organizations from the NAACP, Black Ministerial Alliance, the Des Moines School Board, The African American Business Association, the Iowa Commission on the Status of the African Americans (including their Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa), and our local black elected officials is essential. They must be accountable to the very people being asked to support them, contribute to them, or to vote for them.

Working for some years with Tony Wilson he taught me a quote that we used all the time. It’s an accountability statement “Check your Brother, Check Yourself.”

We still use this quote today.

When someone is out of order, not living up to the promises made, operating without our best interests, then it’s time to check them.

Having strong accountability has the potential to create power that’s lacking in our community. Being an accountable parent means we have a duty to build and leave intact resources and infrastructure for our young people to thrive and build upon, this means accountability has to be measurable.

Now with the tone of the last few commentaries “From the Pen,” I have seen some of the old leadership start to wake up; some have even become part of the black journalism experience again.

This time I hope we build a lasting power structure in Des Moines and the rest of the state.

... Moving toward change JB
In my first Bystander editing stint from 1979-1981, we concentrated on community issues like the John Monroe Branch police killing and the traffic problems and resident harassment along 17th Street West of Good Park. My columnist included my two lawyer brothers Brad and William, sports legend Allen Ashby and activist Linda Walker Webster, Kalonji Saadiq and Edna Griffith.

By Robert V. Morris

“What’s Going On?” is the question of the day which I will attempt to answer from a black Iowa native perspective on a weekly basis in this publication. Iowa has lacked a common sense, bipartisan editorial that addressed non-white issues and concerns since I stopped writing in the majority press several years ago.

Since this is my first editorial, I will give you some history before I start biting heads off for the many injustices going on in our community today that are ignored by many of those trusted to assure our freedoms.

Growing-up around the Bystander, I had the opportunity to know many of the great black Iowan’s who have contributed to our state. My grandparents, J.B. and Georgine Morris, Sr. and my parents James “Braddie” and Arlene Morris, Jr. provided a magnificent foundation of learning for my youth. Lawyers, journalists and human rights activists, I met people like attorney Charles Howard, Sr. and his fabulous sons and community leaders like A.P. Trotter, Jimmy Mitchell, our next door neighbors Judge Luther and Willie Glanton and my favorite activist Robert Wright, Sr. who opened the door to my NAACP career in Iowa City.

In my first Bystander editing stint from 1979-1981, we concentrated on community issues like the John Monroe Branch police killing and the traffic problems and resident harassment along 17th Street West of Good Park. My columnist included my two lawyer brothers Brad and William, sports legend Allen Ashby and activist Linda Walker Webster, Kalonji Saadiq and Edna Griffith. I laugh when I hear people who did not know her comparing Edna to Rosa Parks with the Katz Drug Store protest as she was actually a “very” militant Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) socialist activist which is why I published her editorials which were off the mainstream but true to her beliefs. Although “hot-blooded,” former Black Panther Saadiq was a brilliant individual who did many great things for our community but had personal demons that led to his demise. We need him to throw some waste baskets today as most of our public officials have no clue as to the miserable state of black Iowa and really don’t care.

From poverty and education to unemployment and incarceration, black Iowans continue to suffer with no help in sight. The result of covert racism and discrimination is a hard-to-hit target that discourages its victims and pushes them toward apathy and despair. Like a deer in the headlights, our community has become reactive instead of proactive creating a leadership vacuum and forcing our best and brightest to leave the state in search of greater career opportunities and social environments. There are many areas of vital concern for black Iowans and I will address many of them in my column.

After my grandfather J.B. sold the Bystander to Raymond Ray in 1971, got it back, and then to KYNA Radio owner Carl Williams in 1972 who also failed, it has had a parade of publishers that have kept it alive including Loren Sampson, Marshall Garrison, Roderick Bradley, John Narcisse and now Jerald Brantley who have all sacrificed to preserve its legacy. I salute all of them and pledge to do my best to help create the alternative publication my grandfather at 85 years ago and provide a long absent voice to black Iowans.

Robert V. Morris can be reached at the Iowa Bystander offices at (515) 471-5992 or email: RM00558@asl.com.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Morris
AABA to host membership meeting open to the public

The African American Business Association (AABA) will be holding a general membership meeting, open to the public on August 22nd, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Targeted Small Business program. Donna Lowery from Iowa Department of Economic Development will be present to answer all questions regarding the program. The Location is Keystone Electrical Manufacturing Co. Conference Room, 2511 Bell Avenue, Des Moines.

For those that are unfamiliar with “target small business program” it was a state program geared to help minority and women businesses in the state, however, during its first tenure most of the money went to women applicants, and not to many African Americans. Ultimately, the program lacked sufficient funding to do anything good. Outgoing Governor Vilsack put together a Task Force to study the problems of TSB and Governor Culver accepted the recommendations. This past legislative session, The TSB task force recommendations were placed into bills, sponsored by Wayne Ford, and Ako Abdul-Samad, and others in the house as well as Sen. Harp and Sen. Green. These groups particularly AABA worked to get the legislature to enact the bill into law. The bill was passed with sweeping bipartisan support and signed by the Governor at the end of the session. Now the administrative rules have been updated and soon will be in effect.

We have convinced the State that black businesses are in need of assistance in both financing and business education. The State has made a good faith start to fulfill its responsibility, now it’s our turn to do our part, and become certified Targeted Small Businesses with the state. Since TSB assistance is available to other “disadvantaged” groups such as women, the disabled, Latino, and Asian business it is crucial that black businesses become certified as “target small business”.

Issues to be discussed included, but are not limited to how to:

- Why is it important to certify as a targeted small business
- What funding is available through TSB
- What other types of opportunities exist through TSB
- What assistance is available to help through the certification process
- What AABA is able to do to help

We look forward to seeing starting, existing, and expanding business attending this opportunity.

Iowa Black-white prison ratio: highest in U.S.

The Militant Labor Forum invites the public to a discussion on Iowa’s black-white prison ratio: highest in U.S. and the fight against racism today. A new study shows that Iowa jails Blacks at a rate 13.6 times that for whites – nearly double the national average. The forum will take up this question and others such as why racism is still institutionalized in the United States, why the fight for Black rights and the fight for legal equality of immigrants can strengthen each other and are in the interest of all workers, why Blacks have been major participants in the fights for organizing unions, and what demands can be raised today to advance the fight against racism and discrimination. The speaker will be Seth Galskin, Socialist Workers candidate for Des Moines City Council. The event takes place Friday August 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Militant Labor Forum hall at 1707 Douglas Ave. Des Moines. For more information call (515)255-1707 or e-mail at mlforum@qwest.net. There will be a dinner prior to the program at 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation $5 dinner/ $5 program.

Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame 2007 inductees announced

Four remarkable women will be inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 25, at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The event is free and open to the public. It is held in conjunction with Women’s Equality Day, which commemorates the day in 1920 when women in America first obtained the right to vote.

“I am proud to announce that these four extraordinary women are going to be inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame,” said Holly Sagor, chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. “They symbolize the diversity of Iowa, demonstrating outstanding achievements in the fields of teaching, civic involvement, politics, environmental science, and business. Generations of Iowans can look to these remarkable individuals as role models.”

Secretary of State Michael A. Mauro and Kimberly Painter, vice chair of the ICSW, will present the Hall of Fame Awards. Secretary Mauro will also read the Governor’s Proclamation honoring Women’s Equality Day, August 26.

A reception will be held for family and friends of the award recipients from 11:30-12 p.m. in the atrium of the State Historical Building.

A Friends of the Iowa Commission on Women Luncheon will be held following the ceremony at 12:30 p.m. by reservation only at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, 1000 Walnut Street, Des Moines. Jane Cox will be performing a selection from the "Yellow Rose of Sulphur." Cost is $30 per person. Call for reservations: 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

The Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW). Awards will be presented to the recipients by Secretary of State Michael A. Mauro; Kimberly Painter, vice chair of the ICSW and chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee; and Matt Wissing, member of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

The building is accessible to persons with disabilities.

This year’s inductees

Ruth Ann Gaines

For 36 years, Ruth Ann Gaines has been the Des Moines East High School drama teacher, Des Moines Area Community College speech and drama instructor, and a facilitator of diversity courses through the Heartland Area Education Agency. She has been very influential in helping students who have been discriminated against because of the color of their skin, and after adopting a child with a disability as a single parent, she has been motivated to dedicate her adult life to fighting for justice for all. Valued and honored with many awards over the years, in 1998 Gaines was the first fine arts teacher to receive the Department of Education’s Iowa Teacher of the Year award. Also in 1998, she showed what a dedicated, serious, and talented individual she is by serving as the Iowa Ambassador for Education. In 2001 Gaines created Sisters For Success, a Des Moines Public School mentorship program for African American middle and high school girls. In 2003, she was one of five educators chosen from around the country to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. And in 2004, she was one of three Iowans to be inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame. Besides being an effective and inspiring leader, Gaines is well known locally for her acting ability.

Emma J. Harvat

Emma J. Harvat was an important historical figure in United States and Iowa history, for in 1922, she became the first woman in the nation to be mayor of a city larger than 10,000. “I believe my experience and training in business won the election for me,” she said. Bringing a different perspective to problems in city government, she immediately separated female and male offenders in the city jail and established a juvenile home. Born in Iowa City in 1870, she was the ninth of ten children of Czechoslovakian immigrants Joseph and Mary Harvat. She started her professional life as a store clerk but quickly advanced to owning her own business, a ready-made dress shop. Later she became involved in real estate, home building, and as a landlord. Her home in Iowa City was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and Iowa City’s “Civic Center” was named for her. Harvat was an Iowa woman of remarkable vision, professional achievement, and originality who was a pathfinder for civic leaders in our state. She died in 1949.

Dr. Ada Hayden

After being the first woman to obtain her Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1918, Ada Hayden was appointed as assistant professor in botany in 1919. She also conducted research on Iowa’s plants and ecology, publishing nearly 30 papers based on these studies. “A Botanical Survey in the Iowa Lake Region of Clay and Palo Alto Counties” was published in 1943 and is heralded by many authorities as one of the best surveys of Iowa flora. She was also a talented artist and photographer. She devoted much of her time and energy to the Iowa State Fair and added over 10,000 high-quality specimens that she personally collected; the Herbarium was named in her honor in 1988. In 2004, Ames dedicated one of its largest parks as the Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Hayden was also keen on environmental conservation, and one of her well known reports was titled “The Selection of Prairie Areas in Iowa which Should Be Preserved.” Several of the natural Iowa landscape areas she described have since been purchased and designated as state preserves. Born on August 14, 1884, Hayden died on August 12, 1950. After her death, a 200-acre preserve in Howard County was named in her honor.

Connie Wimer

Connie Wimer, of Des Moines, has been an active business and community leader for many years. She was the owner of a non-profit Iowa Title Company from 1976 until 1985 when she sold the company to Central Life Insurance Company, but continued as President until 2001. In 1981 she purchased a small legal paper and transitioned it in 1983 to become the Des Moines Business Record. She publishes another ten other publications including dom, Intro, Daily Business Record, and Book of Lists. Additionally, she created a number of annual events, including Women of Influence and Forty under 40, recognizing women and younger people who contribute to the community. In addition to the publishing business, Wimer sits on a number of business and charitable boards. She founded Winefest Des Moines and was the first woman to chair the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce as well as chair the National Alliance of Area Business Publications. She was the first woman elected to the Greater Des Moines Committee’s Business Hall of Fame in 2002 and she has received many other awards throughout her career. Born in Merrill, Iowa in 1932, Wimer moved to Des Moines in 1950 and in Des Moines she earned her reputation as a competent, caring and sharing business leader.

Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice

Marilyn O. Murphy

The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice will be awarded to Marilyn O. Murphy. This medal, named for the first chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, is awarded to an individual who has made significant contributions to the principles of equality and justice.

Marilyn O. Murphy has opened doors for others and serves as a role model for many, often by being the first woman to serve in traditionally male groups. She is an outstanding community volunteer and leader in social services and human rights in the Sioux City area. Her ability to achieve worthwhile objectives by forming coalitions from disputing factions is remarkable. The extensiveness of her volunteer services is evidenced by the variety of areas in which she has been effective: crime prevention, day care, sexual assault and domestic violence, drug abuse, juvenile justice, rural concerns, family farms, and civil rights. Since 1973, she has been Social Concerns Facilitator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City and is also serving in the capacity of Rural Life Contact for the Diocese. She has produced several videos in English and Spanish, on domestic violence, child sexual abuse, rural heritage, rural women and women in the church, elderly women and women in prison. She was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Council of Community Services and the Iowa Commission on Substance Abuse. She was also the first president of the Community Action Agency and chaired the Sioux City Human Rights Commission for three years. Murphy cofounded the Sioux City Chapter of the Women’s Political Caucus. She has received many community service awards. She was inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 1988 and received the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice in 2007.
Weekly Meditation

“Breath of Life”

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Verse of Concentration: Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

There are certain areas of our lives that are vibrant and alive. It is in those areas that we get most excited and feel “this is where we shine and have the most success”. But there are other areas of our lives where we feel less alive and not as successful. These areas we’ve ignored and allowed to get to a point where they seem barren and even dead. They show no sign of life! For example, we may belong to a dead church, be in a dead relationship or marriage, our finances may be lifeless, or we may work at a dead-end job, but I am here to tell you that the Holy Spirit can breathe on those “dry bones”; meaning those spiritually dead areas of our lives that show no activity nor bear any fruit, and have not for a long time.

The Holy Spirit’s breath of life is both necessary and valuable. It allows for restoration and renewal in areas that were once thought to be dead, but now are being brought back to life by the Holy Spirit blowing breath into these very places.

(Take a deep breath………exhale)

Focus: Ask the Holy Spirit, in what areas do I need the breath of life? Then ask the Holy Spirit to breathe on those places and restore you to a live of prosperity and wholeness.

1,000+ Des Moines four-year-olds can attend free preschool

DES MOINES (Au gust 16, 2007) – More than one thousand four-year-old children have the opportunity to attend preschool for free this year, the Des Moines Public Schools announced today. The program is part of a state-wide voluntary early childhood initiative signed into law by Governor Chet Culver earlier this year.

The Des Moines Public Schools is one of 52 school districts in Iowa – and the only school district in Polk County – selected by the Iowa Department of Education to receive a competitive state grant. State funds will support ten hours of preschool each week for up to 1,065 children in Des Moines.

“Access to quality preschool has a positive impact on children by helping them be prepared to learn and ready for school. We hope more and more families will take advantage of this opportunity,” said Judi Cunningham, a PreK-8 Executive Director for the Des Moines Public Schools. “This is a step forward as we continue to improve and enhance education here in our community and across the state.”

All parents or guardians are eligible to apply for the program and are asked to do so by August 31. Preschool will begin in mid-September. The Des Moines Public Schools has identified 42 potential preschool locations throughout the city and will make every effort for children to attend a location and at a time most convenient for their family.

The application is available at www.dmps.k12.ia.us. In addition, people may receive more information by calling 515-242-7234.

Founded 100 years ago, the Des Moines Independent Community School District is Iowa’s largest provider of public education serving the individual needs of more than 30,000 students in 60 schools with more than 4,800 dedicated teachers and staff.

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Iowa Department of Public Health
Corinthian Baptist Church

“Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Luke warm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.” - - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Des Moines ACT-SO students in the awards ceremony states march.

Lining up for funeral march: Keryna Thompson-Banks, Eric Hall, Gabrielle (Gabby) Lane, Kiah Aikoriegie, Kameron Middlebrooks, Carissa Smith, Darron Haygood, Ebonee Woods, Arnold Woods, Lia Brown.

Kiah Aikoriegie ready for competition, music instrumental classical.

Arnold Woods, Marcus Johnson, Makea Sanders, Chayla Stanton-Robinson, Mrs. Woods

Des Moines ACT-SO students in the awards ceremony states march.
Arnold Woods, Eric Hall (Cierra Cason seated) of the Youth and College Division held a silent protest due to national budget cuts.
Drake moves up in rankings for value, academic quality

Drake University climbed to fifth in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. The rankings are based on a formula that relates a school’s academic quality, as indicated by its U.S. News ranking, to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid. The 2008 rankings show 60 percent of Drake students receiving grants based on financial need. Drake students also receive tens of millions of dollars in scholarships based on academic merit, which are not calculated in this category.

In the new rankings, Drake maintained its No. 2 position in reputation for academic quality (peer assessment) and raised its score from 3.8 to 3.9. The University also increased its overall score from 84 to 86 while remaining fourth in the overall rankings of Midwest universities that provide a comprehensive look at how 1,400 accredited four-year schools stack up based on a set of 15 different indicators of excellence. Drake provides a data book on the Drake Web site at www.drake.edu/instre/naicu/2008/report/default.asp.

"We’re delighted that Drake continues to be recognized as one of the best institutions in the淮 Schools, Great Prices" category. The rankings are based on a formula that relates a school’s academic quality, as indicated by its U.S. News ranking, to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid. The 2008 rankings show 60 percent of Drake students receiving grants based on financial need. Drake students also receive tens of millions of dollars in scholarships based on academic merit, which are not calculated in this category.

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"Our mission to provide an exceptional learning environment drives everything that we do at Drake, and while we are grateful for the recognition by U.S. News & World Report and other national media, ultimately the most important feedback for us is the fact that our students, their parents and our alumni tell us that we are keeping the promise of that mission."

The University has a strong commitment to providing useful and clear information to its various constituencies. Drake provides data books on the Drake Web site at www.drake.edu/instre/naicu/2008/report/default.asp with statistics on enrollment, graduation and retention rates, tuition and fees, common fields of study, faculty profiles and diversity profiles.

Beginning in September, Drake will participate in an innovative consumer information initiative developed by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The new University and College Accountability Network (U-CAN) is designed to give, in a common format, prospective students and their families concise, Web-based, consumer-friendly information on individual private colleges and universities. Additional information about U-CAN is available online at www.naicu.edu/special_initiatives/id.603/default.asp.

While colleges and universities strive to provide more information for consumers, U.S. News offers a comprehensive look at how 1,400 accredited four-year schools stack up based on a set of 15 indicators of excellence. The 2008 rankings will be published in the Aug. 27 issue of U.S. News & World Report.

Polk County Health Department to hold Peer Leader training

Polk County Health Department will hold a four-day training workshop from Monday, August 27, 2007 through Thursday, August 30, 2007 for people interested in teaching “Successful Living with Chronic Conditions”. The workshop will be held from 9:00AM to 3:30PM each day. It will be held at Polk County Senior Services, 1914 Carpenter Avenue.

“The development of skilled Peer Leaders is a key strategy to help people with chronic health conditions. Because they have traveled the same road as others, they are ideally positioned to develop the confidence, motivation and skill to take control of their lives.” said Ms. Keiter, Polk County Health Department Planning Specialist.

The “Successful Living with Chronic Conditions” workshop is designed to give people the skills and tools they need to manage the everyday challenges of their chronic condition. The workshop is a 15 hour course taught by two trained leaders, one or both of which are living with a long-term health condition. The program is appropriate for anyone living with long-term health challenges.

“We talk about “managing” chronic health conditions vs. treating a disease. There aren’t short term cures or treatments to return people to normal health. “Managing” requires a plan” said Ms. Keiter.

After attending the 4-day training, Peer Leaders would co-facilitate a group with an experienced Master Trainer. They would present short information sessions from the leader manual and facilitate discussions.

Chronic conditions drain energy which leads to fatigue. Fatigue can lead to frustration, anger or depression. “The program has helped thousands of people overcome the challenges that may accompany any chronic health problem” said Terri Henkels, Polk County Health Department Director.

For more information or to register for the Peer Leader Training contact Tammy Keiter at the Polk County Health Department at 515-286-3767, tkeiter@co.polk ia.us or visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health.

Senior College semester begins Sept. 10

(Des Moines, Iowa) Senior College of Greater Des Moines, for-merly Senior College at the Pappajohn Center, is registering now for the fall semester that begins the week of September 10. Fall classes will address topics such as foreign policy issues, computer skills, Spanish, the arts, antiquities, reli-gion and winter gardening. Senior College of Greater Des Moines, for-merly Senior College at the Pappajohn Center, offers adults over 50 a wide array of classes for the enjoyment of learning. There are no tests or grades. Classes meet once a week for four to eight weeks and cost $40 to $80 each. Course descriptions and registration forms are available on the Internet or by mail. Visit www.myseniorcollege.com, or telephone 515-244-0631.

A featured class this fall is Great Decisions, which will examine pressing global issues, using materials provided by the non-partisan, not-for-profit Foreign Policy Association. Topics for this eight-week course will be Middle East policy, climate change, Mexico, migration, South Africa, war crimes, central Asia, and the world’s obligations to its children.

Senior College is a not-for-profit program that has enrolled more than 1400 students in a little over two years. Classes meet throughout the Des Moines metro area.

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*Pre-employment background checks and health/drug test required.
Poetry Reading Scheduled for August 21

Join us for a program featuring local poet Elaine Erickson, who will share some of her newest works on Tuesday, August 21, at 6:30PM in the Central Library Meeting Room.

Erickson was born in Des Moines and has a bachelor of music in piano performance from Wheaton College and a master of music degree in music composition from Drake University. She has won numerous awards, fellowships, and residencies from the Ford Foundation, the National League of American Pen Women, and the Pyle Commission Award from the Iowa Composers Forum. She has composed four operas, three of which were performed at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Her poetry has been published in Midwest Poetry Review, Briar Cliff Review, Opus Literary Review, Poetic Rage, and Maryland Poetry Review as well as various other literary magazines.

Discuss a book

Meet some friends, old and new, while sharing a favorite book at one of the monthly book discussions offered at all five branch locations of the Des Moines Public Library.

Monday, August 20, Forest Avenue Library, 7:00PM: Read and discuss Looking Around for God, by James Autry.

August Programs at Central Library

There will be a family storytime and craft activity offered on Saturday, August 25 at 10:00AM. Kids and adults can build their very own dinosaur.

College Classes and Workshops Continue

Teens and parents will want to check out the college and career planning programs at the Central Library beginning in August and continuing through September. Teens can explore options for their future, match their interests with potential careers, and create a plan for their continued education. Best of all, the programs are free and available in both English and Spanish.

Monday, August 20, 6:00PM to 7:30PM: College Planning Session. Computer Lab. (English). This week’s session will help teens create a plan for their education and see how the classes that they take may relate to future careers. The session will be repeated for Spanish speaking students on Monday, August 27, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM.

Trace Your Roots!

Track an ancestor or discover new relatives using the many resources available at your local library. Join us for a fascinating introduction to genealogy on Tuesday, August 21, from 2:00 to 3:00PM in the Computer Lab of the Central Library.

Please call 283-4152, ext. 3, to preregister for this class.

Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items and press releases should be 500 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc., should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo.

Finally, all submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

Iowa Bystander Mission

The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership nurturing, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander

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The programs are hosted by Jonathan Narcisse, president of the State of Black Iowa Initiative.

Cornerstone Family Church

3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

Business Office
Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:40
Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

Our Purpose
Helping ALL people find and live their lives for Christ, bridging ethnic, cultural and denominational lines.

Sundays
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Real Life – Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday Morning Worship services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays
Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
SpiritLife 7:00 p.m.
One Youth 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays
Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fridays 11:30 a.m. & Sundays 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

Calling All Singers & Musicians
The Music Ministry is now open! Become one of the Ambassadors of Praise! Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Choir room. Please sign up at the Information Center if you plan to attend. Childcare is available.

Family Reunion Picnic - Celebrate Africa!
Monday, September 3rd (Labor Day), 11:00-3:00 on the land west of the CFC building. Grills for cooking are provided, bring your food picnic with us under the tents. Sample African cuisine, if able, wear African attire and enjoy a music program at 1:00 with an International flair. Children and people of all ages will be having fun on the inflatable games and activities provided. Bring your friends!
Church Listings & Weekly Schedules

Burns United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV, Pastor
811 Crocker Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-262-3802
Email: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

Church Schedule:
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
(Showers of Blessing) Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
Saturday
Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul A.M.E.
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
St. Paul A.M.E Church
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Ministry Days & Times
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Children's Church
Nursery Available

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
Children's Church
Nursery Available

Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Praise Dance rehearsal

Tuesdays
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Computer Classes for seniors
Suspends 12:00 p.m.
Church School

Wednesdays
6:00 p.m. Aerobics & Tai-Bo
7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Nursery Available

Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Women's Ministry
6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays
6:00 p.m. Aerobics
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
6:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal

Saturday
Mission - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. Traditional Service

For information please call 515-288-4419.

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Henry Isaiah Thomas, Pastor
E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1783

Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Brock: Donnie Williams: 262-4853 or Bro. Larry Welch: 771-4441
Mission Statement: Our mission is to win the lost, build the believer and
make disciples. Others with God's truth and to exemplify God's truth at work in their
lives.

Bro. White: 515-244-1741
Verna Smith: 515-243-8470

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Verna Smith: 515-243-8470

Saturdays - Men's Fellowship and Bible Study 10:00am-12:00pm
Saturdays - Knitting Class at 12:00 p.m.
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Wednesdays - Family Night Ministry for all ages
Sundays -  Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.

...how are they to hear
without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 814 School Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-243-4073
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday-Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthianbaptistdsm.org

New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097
Pastor: Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 619 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-282-1631
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-9th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM
Email Address: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Address: 1201 Day Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-288-4419
Pastor: Rev. Derek E. Bastian
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:30 a.m., Praise 940 AM
Email: stpame@aol.com

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry L. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
...

...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Announcing Creative Clubhouse’s graduation!

Submitted by Tamra Saltzman

On August 16th, 35 students were scheduled to be given computers as part of the “Creative Clubhouse’s” graduation. The students ranged from 5 – 12 years old.

We would like to congratulate the students that have successfully completed the **FREE SUMMER PROGRAM** the emphasis on the education, self-development and life skills.

We want to acknowledge the children for their efforts, the parents for their support and the donors for making this program overwhelmingly successful.

We are requesting that the community come and celebrate and give these outstanding children the support and the encouragement to continue making the correct choices for their personal life journey.

Imam Ako Abdul Samaad is the CEO and founder of Creative Visions.

*God Bless and Keep the Vision*